

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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EUR/WE - MR. ROWELL (DRAFT)
-----142146Z 048166 /64

P R 142058Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL OPORTO
AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 009131

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, EAID, EFIN, PO

SUBJECT: PORTUGUESE AMBASSADOR'S CALL AT DEPARTMENT

1. AT HIS REQUEST, AMBASSADOR THEMIDO MET WITH DEPTOFFS
AT DEPARTMENT ON JAN 12. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW.
2. BALANCE-OF-PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE: THEMIDO REITERATED GOP
GRATITUDE FOR TIMELY ASSISTANCE TO BE PROVIDED BY ESF
AGREEMENT. HE ILLUSTRATED URGENCY OF GOP NEED BY RELATING
THAT DURING HIS HOLIDAY VACATION IN LISBON, SOARES HAD
CALLED HIM TO HIS OFFICE LATE ON CHRISTMAS EVE FOR LENGTHY
DISCUSSION OF PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF ONGOING ESF
NEGOTIATIONS. TURNING TO MEDIUM-TERM CONSORTIUM LOAN,
THEMIDO ASKED IF USG INTENDS TO CONSULT IN ADVANCE WITH
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GOP ON APPROACHES TO OTHER POTENTIAL CONTRIBUTORS, EITHER
THROUGH GOP WASHINGTON EMBASSY OR EMBASSY LISBON. HE ADDED
THAT IF USG CONCURS, SOARES COULD TAKE INITIAL SOUNDINGS
IN EC CAPITALS DURING HIS PROJECTED TRAVEL TO PROMOTE
EARLY PORTUGUESE ENTRY INTO EC. DEPTOFF RESPONDED THAT
ADVANCE CONSULTATION WOULD BE USEFUL FOR COORDINATING TIMING
AND OBJECTIVES OF APPROACHES. DEPTOFF ALSO SUGGESTED THAT

DISCUSSIONS WITH NATO GOVERNMENTS KEEP IN MIND PORTUGAL'S

NEED FOR ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING AND EQUIPPING NEWLY FORMED
BRIGADE.

3. SOARES' VISIT TO US: THEMIDO SAID SOARES HOPES TO
VISIT NEW YORK IN FEBRUARY OR MARCH TO ACCEPT AWARD FROM
INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, AND ASKED WHICH
MONTH WOULD BE MORE PROPITIOUS FROM STANDPOINT OF
ARRANGING FOLLOW-ON WASHINGTON VISIT. DEPTOFF EXPRESSED
SYMPATHETIC UNDERSTANDING OF SOARES' DESIRE FOR EARLY
MEETING WITH NEW ADMINISTRATION, BUT NOTED THAT NO FIRM
COMMITMENTS RE WASHINGTON VISITS BY HEADS OF GOVERNMENTS
COULD BE MADE BEFORE NEW ADMINISTRATION IS IN PLACE.
THEMIDO SAID HE FULLY UNDERSTANDS, BUT REITERATED SOARES'
HOPE FOR AN EARLY VISIT.

4. AZORES NEGOTIATIONS: DEPTOFF ASKED WHETHER GOP
ANTICIPATES EARLY RESUMPTION OF INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS
ON NEW AZORES AGREEMENT. THEMIDO SAID GOP IS NOW IN
PROCESS OF FORMING STUDY COMMITTEE, INCLUDING REP-
RESENTATIVES OF REGIONAL GOVERNMENT, UNDER FOREIGN
MINISTRY DIRECTION. HE SAID THAT HE HAD NO NEW
INSTRUCTIONS ON MATTER AT THIS TIME, BUT EXPECTS TO
RECEIVE SUCH INSTRUCTIONS WITHIN TWO TO THREE WEEKS.

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